

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

AUGUST 14, 2007

REVISED AGENDA ITEM #15 - LIBRARY SURPLUS FUND BALANCE

On July 17, 2007, the Board of Supervisors voted to increase the Library special tax to the maximum allowable rate of \$26.75 per parcel. Even with this 4% tax increase, the cities and the County unincorporated areas that voted to pay a special library tax will receive a reduction of their budgets for books and materials of \$446,000.

In 1997, when the voters in the County unincorporated county areas and the cities of Cudahy, Culver City, Duarte/Bradbury, El Monte, La Canada Flintridge, Lakewood, Lomita, Lynwood, Maywood, West Hollywood and Santa Clarita voted to pay a special tax for library services, they did it with the assumption that they would receive more services than the cities who did not vote for such a tax. The fact that the recent tax increase will be accompanied by a budget cut is inherently unfair to the cities that pay a higher tax rate for library services.

Property tax dollars are general purpose dollars that are available for Board priorities. An appropriate use of property tax revenue would be to make sure that cities who voted for the library special tax not sustain budget cuts for books and material.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to review the fund balance and report back in the supplemental budget board letter in September, on whether the Public Library budget contains sufficient surplus fund balance to restore all or part of the \$446,000 that was cut from the books and supplies budget.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to work with the County Public Librarian to develop a comprehensive strategic needs assessment of the Library's current and future service and funding needs and report back to the Board during next year's budget deliberations.

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